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THE ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE OF AMERICA

PLENTY of enthusiasm accompanied the formation of the new association, The Architectural League of America, of which an account appears elsewhere. Indeed, the committee intrusted with the duty of drawing up suggestions for its objects and organization fairly reveled in high-sounding and far-reaching projects for its scope of action and influence. The practical objects for which the convention was sitting are either omitted or only dimly discernible through the mass of verbiage. These were to secure concerted action in the matter of exhibitions, so that dates should not clash and exhibits might proceed in a regular circuit from one city to another. Due provision, however, had been made to this end in the previous transactions of the convention, so that something of very practical utility has already been accomplished. The significance of the new organization in its wider intentions seems to be that it represents the younger men in the profession, and is to a certain extent a protest against the conservatism of the American Institute of Architects. The tendency for some time has been towards increase of vitality in the various architectural clubs rather than in the chapters of the Institute. These clubs have further reinforced themselves by recognizing the interdependence of the architect, sculptor and painter, and by encouraging the alliance of the fine arts. Add to this that the active work of these clubs has largely passed into the hands of the younger men, and the inevitableness of some sort of federation of national scope is apparent. It needed only such an opportunity as the convention at Cleveland, Ohio, to make it spring into existence. The fact that the League has been formed is of more importance than the actual terms of its formation. The latter were necessarily affected by the enthusiasm and unexpectedness of the occasion. If, as we feel convinced, there is a genuine force behind the movement, it may confidently be expected to come down from the clouds and settle itself along solid ground.



THE ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE OF AMERICA.

THE recently organized Architectural League of America, in its inception, at

any rate, is not so much a new society as an organization for drawing existing societies into closer union. Hitherto the exhibition committees of each society have worked independently, with the result that architects are beset with applications for contributions and the committees have a large amount of clerical duty to perform, while the latter has been inadequately fruitful in securing exhibits owing to the clashing of the dates of exhibitions. Mr. Henry W. Tomlinson, of Chicago, has been working to bring about some practical solution of this problem, and with this end in view a convention of architects was held at Cleveland, Ohio, on June 2 and 3. There were ninety-seven in attendance, among whom were official delegates from the following thirteen clubs: The Architectural League of New York; The Society of Beaux Arts Architects; the architectural clubs of Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Detroit and Toronto (Canada), and the Illinois, Pittsburgh and Cleveland Chapters of the American Institute of Architects.

A committee was appointed to arrange a schedule, so that the exhibitions might be consecutive, thus forming a circuit, through which a drawing once entered could pass on to each subsequent exhibition. Provision was also made for a national exhibition committee to undertake a comprehensive and once-for-all solicitation of contributions, and for one of its members to be a resident foreign member, who shall secure a selection of drawings from England and France. On the other hand, the hanging committee of each exhibition is to retain its independence and the individual exhibitor to be allowed to designate at which cities he wishes his contributions to appear. Further to simplify the details of business, it was arranged that each hanging committee shall contain one member from the previous exhibition on the circuit. Mr. Julius F. Harder, a member of the Architectural League of New York, also urged the adoption by all the societies represented of the Code Governing Competitions in Design, and was appointed chairman of a committee to forward the same.

The reception given to these practical suggestions was so hearty that the delegates went farther than they had anticipated, and organized an architectural league or federation of

COMPETITION CODE

associations concerned with architecture and the allied arts. The report of the Committee on Permanent Organization, subsequently adopted, was as follows:

"The name of this association shall be the Architectural League of America. The objects of the League are the promotion of American architecture and the allied fine arts, and to encourage an indigenous and inventive architecture and to lead architectural thought to modern sources of inspiration; the incorporation of eligible associations in America into active membership, with representation in the League, as best adapted to promote the cause of architecture and the allied fine arts throughout America, and to foster and promote the interests of its members; the establishment and maintenance, by allied membership or otherwise, of alliances with associations of general or special jurisdiction, and composed of clubs or otherwise designated bodies of individual members, devoted wholly or partially to architecture or to some specialty in the allied fine arts.

"There shall be an annual convention, to be composed of delegates from the associations composing this League, to be held at a time hereafter to be designated. Every allied member shall be entitled, unless otherwise provided in the terms of alliance, to be represented at every meeting of this League by not more than four delegates, or duly appointed alternates of such delegates, having collectively one vote. Every member must appoint four delegates to represent it at every meeting of the League, and such delegates must be members in good standing of such members, and may also appoint four alternates of such delegates, who may be members of any other active member, except that no member of the Executive Board shall be appointed an alternate.

"All the delegates of one active member shall collectively have one vote. Dues shall be uniform, regardless of membership of the individual associations and sufficient to meet the running expenses of the League. The management of the League between conventions shall be vested in an Executive Board, to be composed of a President, First and Second Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer, to be elected annually, and the convention shall have power to appoint necessary committees. These articles of organization shall

continue in force until the next convention."

Subsequently the following officers were elected: President, Albert Kelsey, Philadelphia; First Vice-President, William B. Ittner, St. Louis; Second Vice-President, J. W. Case, Detroit; Secretary, H. W. Tomlinson, Chicago; Treasurer, Herbert B. Briggs, Cleveland.

The next convention will be held at Chicago on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 7, 8 and 9, 1900.



GENERAL CODE GOVERNING COMPETITIONS IN DESIGN (AS NOW ADOPTED BY SEVERAL ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETIES AND RECOMMENDED FOR GENERAL ADOPTION).

I.—DEFINITIONS.

1. A Competition in Design is the process by which, on the basis of merit, from two or more designs proposed, one or more are selected.

2. Competitions may be either "open" or "limited."

3. An "open" Competition is one in which any person may be a Competitor.

4. A "limited" Competition is one in which each Competitor is especially invited.

5. A Competition of either class may be either:

(a) "Premiated"—in which remuneration is provided only for those to whom an award is made.

(b) "Paid"—in which remuneration is provided for each Competitor.

6. The Promoter is the party who undertakes responsibility for fulfilment of the Competition according to its terms, and shall provide for proper and substantial remuneration to each Competitor to whom an award is made.

7. The Programme is the offer made by the Promoter and includes the written or printed statement of the terms of a Competition on the basis of which proposals are to be made.

8. A Competitor is one who, in acceptance of such offer, submits a proposal in accord with the terms of the programme.